PATENT

Customer Number: 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 05725.0876-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any co-pending patent applications, are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

With respect to the non-English language documents, Applicant submits the following remarks:

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT, & DUNNER, L. L. P. 1300 I STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 202-408-4000

Attorney Docket No. 05725.0876-00 Application No. Unassigned

- 1. <u>EP 0 943 260</u> An abstract of the disclosure of this document can be found in the English language Derwent Abstract submitted herewith.
- 2. <u>GM 69 01 735</u> A concise explanation of relevance of this document is contained in the specification of this application at page 1.

Applicant has enclosed a copy of the priority application's French Search Report for the Examiner's consideration.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

andrew f. Valle

Bv:

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Date: April 4, 2001

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